

S E C R E T

DCI BRIEFING

15 May 1961

ETHIOPIA

I. Absolute rule of Emperor Haile Selassie under increasing challenge by reformist groups among military forces and younger, educated civilians.

A. Coup attempt in December by army and bodyguard elements quickly failed when did not receive the expected widespread military support.

B. Emperor has not made significant concessions to reformist group and has relied upon same traditionalists for new government although ordering them to exhibit more independent thinking and action.

C. Regime has recently antagonized civilians in government by cutting their salaries to pay for raise in military pay.

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II. Ethiopia's relations with Somali Republic deteriorating.

A. In recent weeks there have been several violent incidents involving Somali tribesmen and Ethiopian police well within Ethiopian territory.

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